

charged polymers selected from the group consisting of polysulfated glucosoglycans, glucosaminoglycans, mucopolysaccharides and mixtures thereof, blended with nonionic polymers selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose sodium hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose and mixtures thereof, [and] wherein the molar ratio of the negatively charged polymers to the nonionic polymers is 1:0.5 to 2.0, and wherein the composition is storage stable.--

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended in the expectation that the amendments will place this application in condition for allowance. Basis for the amendments is found in the application on page 7, lines 27-30; page 9, lines 27-31; and page 10, lines 13-17. The amendments do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 132. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sander et al.

As the basis for the rejection, the Examiner contends that Sander et al. disclose a composition for effecting bone repair comprising a matrix selected from the group consisting of cellulose ethers including sodium carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of hyaluronic acid not greater than one million daltons, and mixtures thereof. Also as a basis for the rejection, the Examiner contends that the matrix disclosed in Sander et al. is an aqueous matrix which may contain an active drug, and which may contain a 1:1 ratio of sodium hyaluronate of